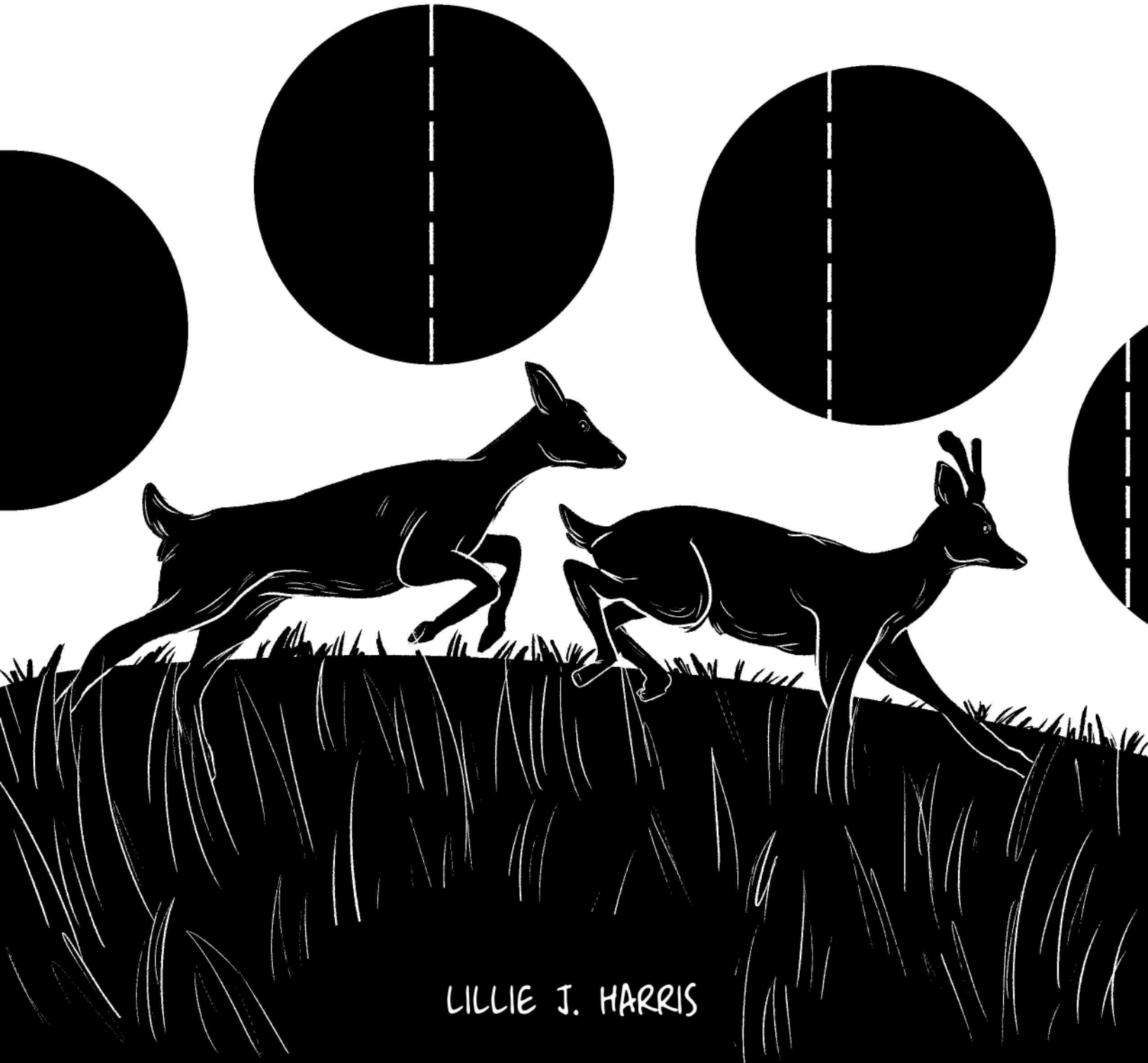
WILDERNESS



LILLIE J. HARRIS

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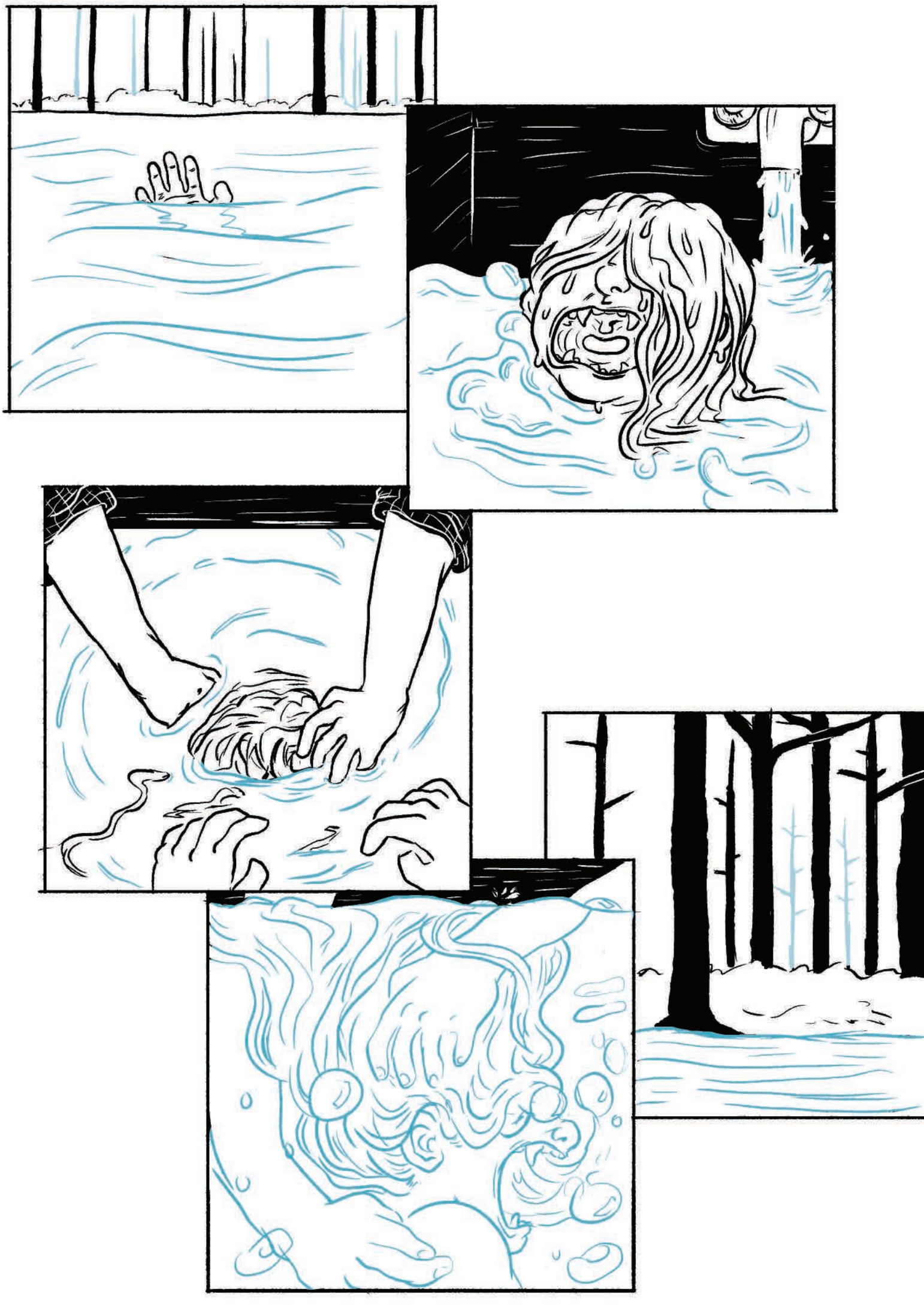
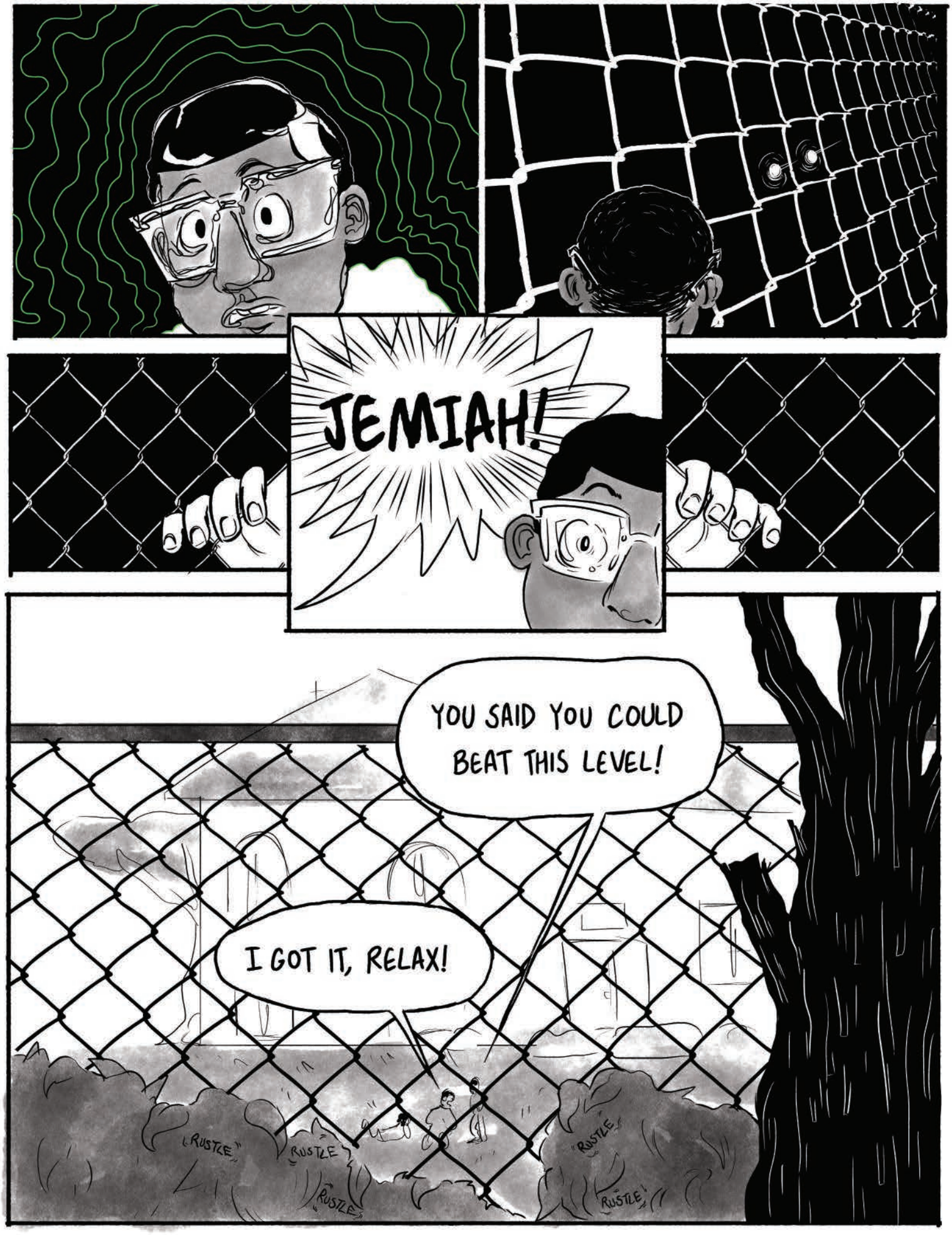
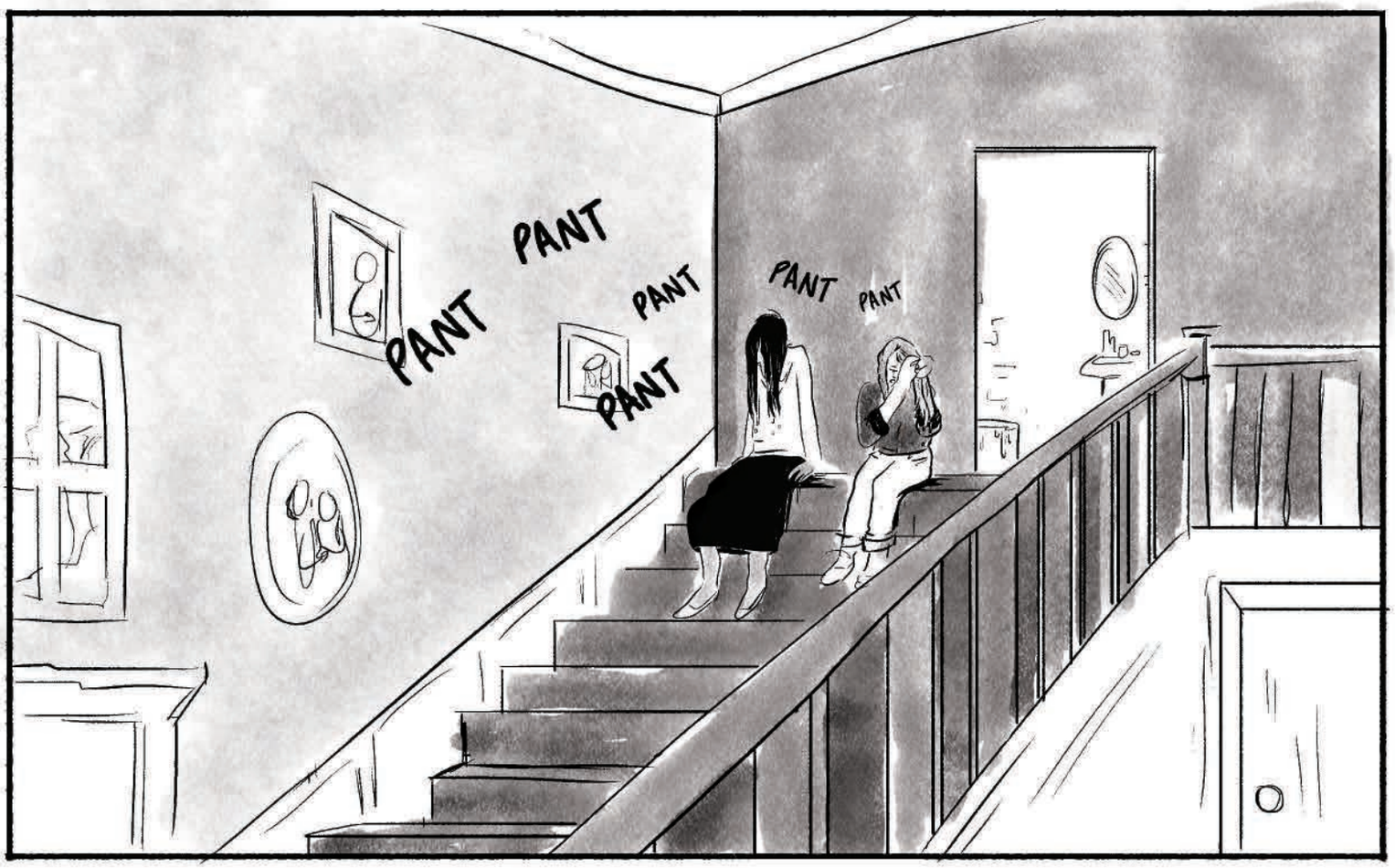
PRINTED AT THE CENTER FOR CARTOON STUDIES
WHITE RIVER JUNCTION, VT
APRIL 2020



DO Y'ALL LIVE INSIDE THE CHURCH?
NAH, WE GOTTA HOUSE.
DO Y'ALL CALL PASTOR ROSCOE 'PASTOR' AT Y'ALL'S HOUSE?
NOPE, JUST 'DAD'.
DOES HE STILL WEAR HIS SUIT IN THE HOUSE?
YEAH, LIKE'TA BED?
Y'ALL, I'M TRY'NA FOCUS!
I CAN STILL REMEMBER THE FIRST TIME IT HAPPENED...
...WHEN EVERYTHING DISAPPEARED.


JEMIAH!
YOU SAID YOU COULD BEAT THIS LEVEL!
I GOT IT, RELAX!
RUSTLE
RUSTLE
RUSTLE
RUSTLE
RUSTLE


PANT
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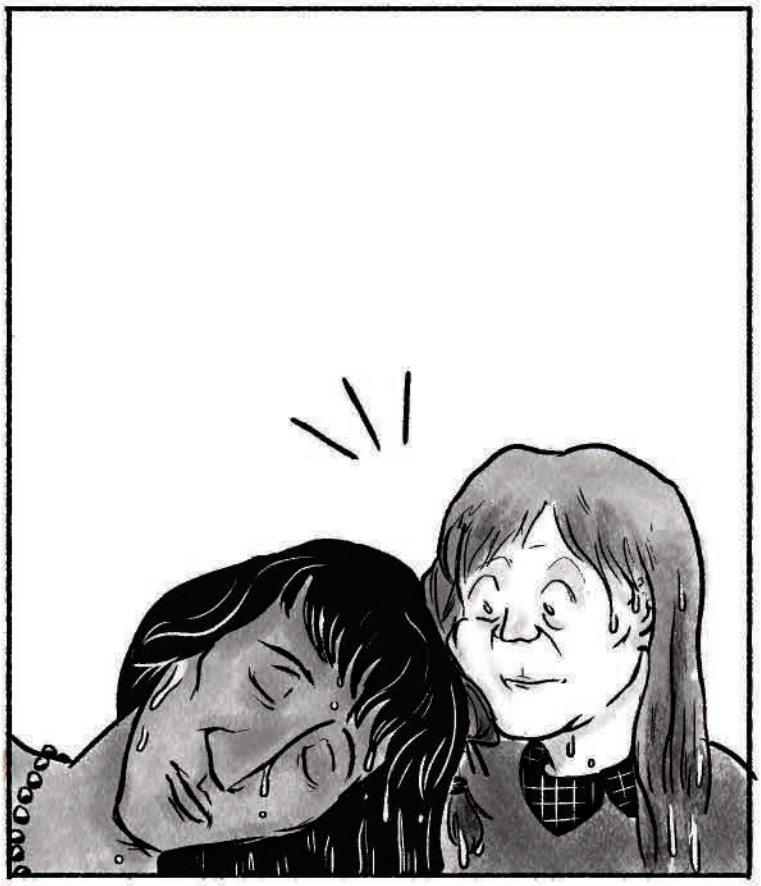
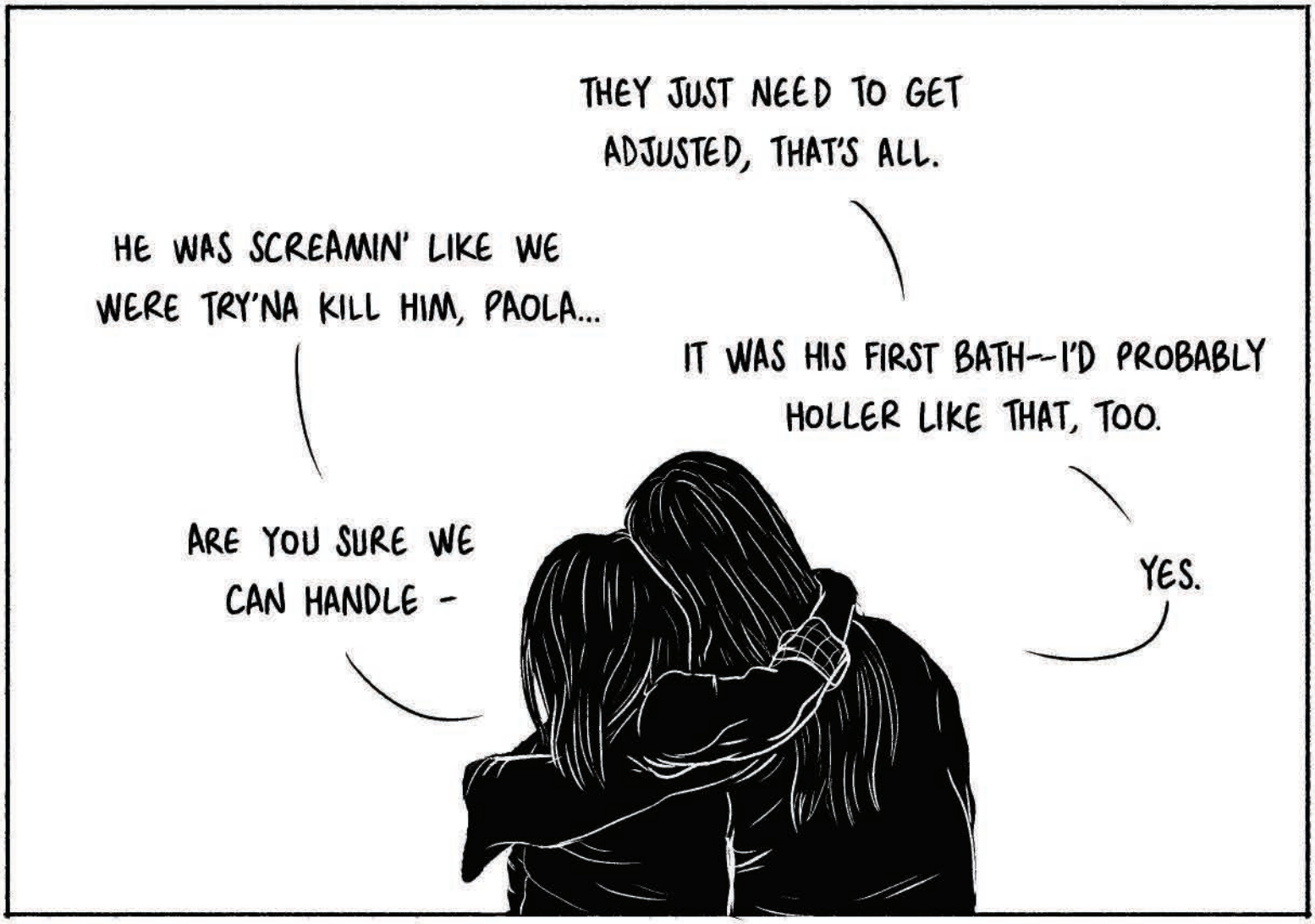
WELL, THAT WENT BETTER THAN EXPECTED.
I'M 'FRAID TO ASK WHAT YOU WERE EXPECTIN', THEN.

MAVERY...
YES, DEAR?




THEY JUST NEED TO GET ADJUSTED, THAT'S ALL.
HE WAS SCREAMIN' LIKE WE WERE TRY'NA KILL HIM, PAOLA...
IT WAS HIS FIRST BATH--I'D PROBABLY HOLLER LIKE THAT, TOO.
ARE YOU SURE WE CAN HANDLE -
YES.

IT'LL JUST TAKE SOME PATIENCE, THAT'S ALL...
SCRRR...
SCRRR...

NO, NO, NO...
CHK!
CHK!
CHK!

WE DON'T STAB, ENOCH. WE SCOOP OUR FOOD, LIKE THIS...

...SCOOP!~
'COOP~!

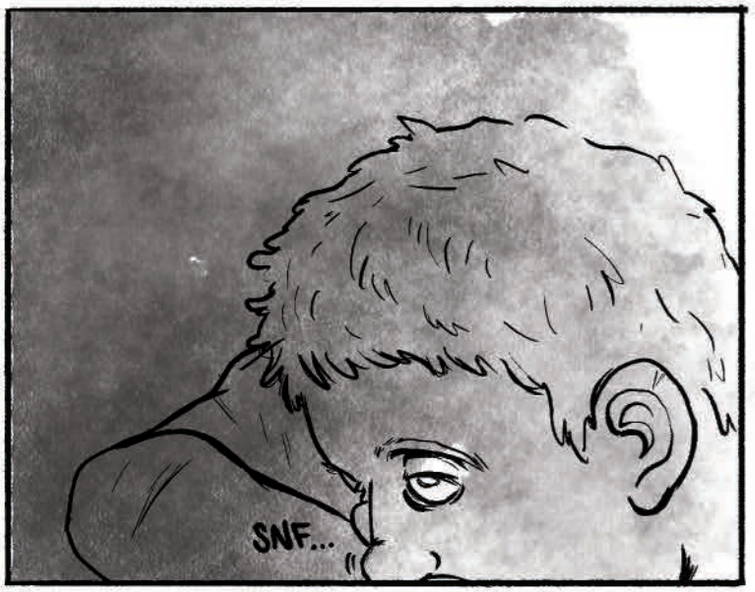
GOOD SCOOPING!
'COOP~!
BEAU, LEAN BACK JUST A LITTLE...
MNCH
MNCH
MNCH
MNCH

FWAT!
IT TOOK SOME TIME FOR US TO UNDERSTAND HOW Y'ALL LEARN...
THAT'S IT... KEEP YOUR EYES ON ME.
NOW...
SIT BACK--LIKE THIS... GOOD JOB!
...BUT ONCE WE DID, TEACHING GOT A LIL' BIT EASIER EACH DAY AT A TIME.

YOU SURE CAN REMEMBER A FACE, HUH JEMIAH?
THAT'S THE THING, MA... IT WASN'T HER FACE I REMEMBERED.
I'D NEVER SEEN THAT WOMAN BEFORE BUT IT FELT LIKE I WAS DRAWN TO HER, SOMEHOW.
SHE WAS ALL I COULD FOCUS ON.

WELL, I GUESS IT'S FINALLY TIME WE TALKED BIRDS 'N BEES...
BIRDS 'N HUH?
YOU'VE JUST GOT YOURSELF A LIL' CRUSH! NO NEED TO FEEL ASHAMED OVER IT.
MA, I DON'T - I'M NOT...
I-I'MMA RUN THIS TO THE CAR!
SWEETHEART!
I'M SURE SHE'D BE INTERESTED IF YOU JUST TALKED TO HER!

I ALREADY KNEW THE FEELING MA WAS TALKING ABOUT...
PASS IT, JORDAN!
I'M OPEN!
...BUT THAT WASN'T IT.


SNF...

SNF...
SNF...

TONIGHT'S THE NIGHT...
NOW, DO Y'ALL REMEMBER WHAT THE FIRST RULE IS?

"WALK 'TIL YA CAN'T SEE THE T'WAIL!"
THAT'S RIGHT!
WHAT ABOUT THE SECOND RULE?
"IF WE SEE ANYBODY: HIDE!"
AND THE LAST RULE?

"MEET BAC
GIVE YOUR BROTHER A CHANCE, ENOCH.
G'ON, BEAU.
M... M-M... MM...
M-M... MEET... MMB... BA'HK... BACK...
H...T'H-
"MEET BACK HERE!"
S'RIGHT...
...BUT ONLY IN THE MORNING.

TAKE CARE, MRS. MURPHY!
EVERYTHIN' WENT WELL?
YEP! THEY TORE MY PEACH COBBLER UP!
PFT...
IT'S A HOMELESS SHELTER, SON. THEY'D EAT FRIED PIGEON IF YA SERVED IT TO 'EM.

WHAT'N THE WORLD...
S'IT A FRIED PIGEON?
...IT'S AN ACCIDENT.
MUST'A BEEN ONE HECK OF A DEER.

I CAN FEEL IT HAPPENING AGAIN ...THAT SENSATION FROM BEFORE.
IT'S LIKE WHEN YOU'RE SITTING IN THE OCEAN
AND FEEL THE TIDE PULLING YOU FURTHER IN.
DAD...

DAD DROVE RIGHT PASSED THE DEER. THAT NIGHT.
HE DIDN'T EVEN SEE WHAT WAS BEHIND IT...

BUT I DID...
...I SWEAR I DID.
DON'T FORGET THE VERY LAST STEP...

ONLY COME BACK
IN THE MORNING.